

Message Text

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47

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9788

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

CINCLANT

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

USCINCEUR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MOPS, MPOL, NO, UR

SUBJ: DEFENSE MINISTER COMMENTS ON NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE ON U.S.

SUBMARINES IN NORWEGIAN WATERS

1. DEFENSE MINISTER FOSTERVOLL INFORMED STORTINGDEFENSE COMMITTEE AND PRESS ON MAY 27 THAT MINISTRY OF DEFENSE HAD NO GROUNDS FOR BELIEVING U.S. SUBMARINES HAVE BEEN OPERATING IN VARANGEFJORD BETWEEN NORWAY AND USSR ONESPIONAGE MISSIONS AGAINST THE SOVIET UNION. FOSTERVOLL WAS RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS STEMMING FROM MAY 25 NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE ALLEGING THAT US SUBMARINES IN THE BARENTS SEA HAD USED NORWEGIAN TERRITORIAL WATERS FOR ESPIONAGE.

2. FOSTERVOLL SAID HE HAD NOT READ ARTICLE NOR CONTACTED US AUTHORITIES ON THE MATTER, BUT ON INVESTIGATION HE SAID HE HAD NO REASON TO BELIEVE NORWEGIAN WATERS WERE BEING USED FOR

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SUCH EXPEDITIONS. HE PROMISED TO LOOK FURTHER INTO THE

MATTER AND TAKE IT UP WITH THE US IF HE THOUGHT IT NECESSARY.

3. FOSTERVOLL ALSO REFERRED TO A SEPARATE REPORTED SUBMARINE SIGHTING ON MAY 17 OFF WEST COAST PORT OF STAVANGER, SAYING THERE WAS NO REASON TO BELIEVE NOR EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THE ACCOUNT. POLICE SUPPOSEDLY HAVE VOICED CONFIDENCE IN WITNESSES WHO SAID THEY OBSERVED SUBMARINE NEAR THE CONDEEP OFFSHORE PLATFORMS AT HILLEVAAG.

4. COMMENT: DEFMIN OFFICIALS ARE SEEKING TO HANDLE THIS POTENTIALLY FACTIOUS ISSUE IN A ROUTINE LOW-KEY MANNER IN HOPES INTEREST WILL FADE. THEY ARE, HOWEVER, ANXIOUS ABOUT THE NEWSPAPER CHARGES; CHIEF OF STAFF ZEINER-GUNDERSEN ASKED EMBASSY MILITARY ATTACHE FOR COPY OF NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE, WHICH LATTER IS OBTAINING THROUGH DOD CHANNELS.

BYRNE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
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Draft Date: 28 MAY 1975
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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